Calendar No. 852

99TH CONGRESS
2d Session

SENATE

REPORT
99-404

RELATING TO TELEPHONE SERVICES FOR SENATORS

AUGUST 14 (legislative day, AUGUST 11), 1986.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. MATHIAS, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2759]

The Committee on Rules and Administration, having considered an original bill (S. 2759) relating to telephone services for Senators, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

S. 2759 amends section 58a of title 2 of the United States Code by deleting the provision prohibiting the Sergeant at Arms from paying for telecommunications services in Senators' home state offices for which the charge is based on the amount of time the service is used. The immediate purpose of the bill is to allow the Sergeant at Arms to pay for the cost of time-sensitive long distance service, up to the amount of the monthly cost for Federal Telecommunications System (FTS) service, whenever the Sergeant at Arms determines that service other than FTS service would be more economical or would provide significantly improved accessibility or transmission quality. The Committee adopted a regulation effecting the immediate purpose of the bill simultaneous with Committee action on the bill. The regulation adopted by the Committee states:

> Whenever the Sergeant at Arms determines that payment for time-sensitive long-distance service from a Senator's State office would be more economical than using FTS service or that use of service other than FTS would provide significantly improved accessibility or transmission quality, the Sergeant at Arms is authorized to pay a portion of the monthly charge for such time-sensitive serv-

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ice, not to exceed the monthly cost of FTS service to such office.

Committee Action

The Committee considered this matter in a meeting on August 12, 1986, and voted to favorably report the bill. Supporting statements were received from the Honorable James A. McClure, a Senator from Idaho, and from Mr. Ernest E. Garcia, Senate Sergeant at Arms.

Cost Estimate

A cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office will be published in the Congressional Record when it is received.

Regulatory Impact

In accordance with paragraph 11(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Rules and Administration does not consider that enactment of S. 2759 would have any regulatory impact.

Changes in Existing Law

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, S. 2759, as reported by the Committee on Rules and Administration, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets):

Section 1205(a) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1984

Sec. 1205. (a) The Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate shall furnish each Senator local and long-distance telecommunications services in Washington, District of Columbia, and in such Senator's State [(except services for which the charge is based on the amount of time the service is used)] in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration; and the costs of such service shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate from moneys appropriated to him for that purpose.

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